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## Zero tax 'not going to be easy'

**2013 budget.** Spending  
plan tabled with a  
proposed 2.5 per cent  
property-tax hike



**ANGELA  
MULLINS**

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### Added costs?

- Administrators stress that funding for several economic-development proposals, such as a new concert hall, is not included in the budget. Financing plans for the proposals will be presented on Dec. 18.

Right now, the numbers add up to 2.5. But by February, Mayor Joe Fontana says they'd better add up to zero.

City staff tabled a draft budget on Tuesday proposing a 2.5 per cent property-tax increase — \$59 a year for the average homeowner before water and sewer rate hikes are figured in. Less than an hour later, Fontana renewed his campaign promise to stave off the taxman.

"I'm as committed today, as I was yesterday, as I will be tomorrow, to hitting the zero-tax target," Fontana said at a news conference. "It's not going to be easy. I never said it would be."

City council will need to find an expected \$11.5 million in cuts or new revenue to avoid a tax hike in 2013. The spending plan presented on Tuesday would make \$8.5-million worth of cuts approved in this year's budget permanent, including a controversial \$1-million reduction for affordable-housing initiatives.

It also proposes raising several user fees, such as those at recreation centres, and cutting \$600,000 for services such as road patching and

snow removal.

Staff have outlined \$8.3-million worth of additional cuts that would reduce the tax increase to 0.7 per cent. While some of those savings would come in the form of reductions to capital programs, services would also be affected.

Funding for the London Transit Commission, for example, would be slashed by \$1.2 million. Another \$400,000 in cuts would be absorbed by libraries.

Increases to police and fire budgets account for 1.6 per cent of the proposed 2.5 per cent tax hike. Police are looking for a \$3.2-million budget increase — 3.6 per cent over this year's number — and firefighters are requesting \$4.1 million more — 7.7 per cent over 2012.

With council set on working toward a third consecutive tax freeze, Fontana sent a strong message to those agencies: "Start doing some work."

The next key date for budget talks is Jan. 9, when administrators will outline proposed service cuts. The budget is expected to be approved on Feb. 28.

## TOWERING AMBITION

Six Western University students, including, from left, Steve Wellman, 22, of Amherstburg; Lauren Hasegawa, 20, of Stratford; Ali Jiواني, 21, of Toronto; and Bianca Lopes, 23, of Rio de Janeiro, have been chosen to take part in The Next 36, a program aimed at launching the careers of the nation's most promising and innovative undergraduates. According to The Next 36 website, they will be given "academic foundation, practical skills, role models and networks to become Canada's next generation of entrepreneurial leaders." Also chosen were Wen Ou and Mallorie Brodie. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

# The results are in!



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City rankings

## London 10th in homicide rate: StatsCan

London's homicide rate in 2011 was the 10th highest by census metropolitan area, according to numbers released Tuesday by Statistics Canada. With a rate of 1.8 murders per 100,000 people, London finished behind Vancouver (1.77) and ahead of St. John's, N.L. (2.12). Winnipeg was the murder capital of Canada, with a rate of 5.08. **METRO**

Egerton Street

## Man arrested for firearm possession

London police have arrested 44-year-old Pedro Novoa for possession of a firearm after an incident on Monday.

Police were called to an address on Egerton Street at about 7 p.m. after it was reported that a man had a gun. Shortly after that, a suspect with a 32-calibre, semi-automatic firearm was arrested. Police said the gun was stolen in 2002. **METRO**

Police pursuit

## Man charged after high-speed chase

A high-speed police chase early Tuesday ended with a crash just outside Woodstock that left two people injured.

OPP say the incident began at about 2 a.m. when they received a report of a stolen Jeep Cherokee in the Delhi area. Officers who spotted the vehicle on Highway 3 began a pursuit that at times reached speeds of 160 km/h. Konrad French, 34, of Chippewa is charged in the accident.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Throw-down at Fanshawe

Cody Fisher, left, a first-year electrical techniques student, faces off against first-year office-administration student Joel Almasi in the final of Tuesday's rock, paper, scissors tournament at Forwell Hall at Fanshawe College. The official is Pat Maloney, entertainment programmer for the student union, who organized the event. Fisher won first place and \$100. Almasi picked up \$50 for second place. There were 25 entrants in the tournament.

MELANIE ANDERSON/FOR METRO

# Greyhound to London Rocket: Cease and desist

### Failure to launch.

Provincial body hints student-led bus company didn't go through proper channels



JOHN MATISZ  
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The London Rocket crashed before it was able to get off the ground.

The student-led shuttle program, which had hopes of transporting students and members of the public from London to Toronto, announced Tuesday it has ceased operations, citing a "legal dispute initiated by one of our direct competitors."

The competitor, Greyhound

Canada, declined comment to Metro. A spokesperson said it is company policy to refrain from speaking to the media about legal matters.

Brett Heron and Nancy Li, a pair of Western University students, are the creators of London Rocket. Their plans were to offer a low-cost alternative to traditional transit companies, such as Greyhound and Via Rail.

"We're 19-year-old students," a statement from London Rocket to customers reads. "We don't have money for lawyers and we don't have the resources to defend ourselves."

Heron, Li, and another London Rocket rep all declined comment and are keeping the Greyhound-issued cease-and-desist letter out of the public eye.

Ajay Woozageer, a spokes-

### Not according to plan

London Rocket had planned to run three buses on Dec. 18, 19 and 20 — one each to Oakville, Mississauga, and Toronto.

person for the provincial Ministry of Transportation, hints the London Rocket team may have brought this legal trouble upon themselves by not doing all of its homework.

"Any person or organization providing a service that carries passengers for compensation between municipalities is required to comply with Ontario's Public Vehicles Act," Woozageer said in an email to Metro. "The act requires that a public-vehicle operating licence be obtained for these

services."

Two companies Greyhound competes with on a national stage, Pacific Western and Coach Canada, attempted to penetrate the local market in June, much like London Rocket. They were also unsuccessful, in part due to the fact they couldn't get licensed.

This holiday season was supposed to be London Rocket's official launch, offering exam-period rides to mostly Western students. They had sold about a busload of seats, which are now refundable.

"While we wished the competition could have approached us in a different manner," the London Rocket statement continues, "all the wonderful emails you sent us voicing your support have brought our team closer together, and made us happy to be doing our jobs."

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# Human-rights action planned against TVDSB

**Trans Youth London.** Group says they've been bullied because of gender identity



ANGELA MULLINS

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Six current and former Thames Valley students are launching a human-rights complaint, alleging harassment from teachers and administrators based on their gender identity.

The harassment includes being bullied by staff and not giving transgender teens access to proper washrooms and change rooms, said Michelle Boyce, who's organizing the case on

behalf of Trans Youth London and the Alphabet Community Centre.

Boyce said she's spent years working with district officials in hopes of establishing guidelines for dealing with transgender and gender non-conforming students or staff.

The formal complaint — not yet filed with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal — is a last-ditch effort aimed at getting a response, Boyce said.

"We've been trying to avoid this," she said. "We've been negotiating for a long time with the board, trying to get them to take a different approach."

Richard Hoffman, spokesman for the Thames Valley District School Board, declined comment, saying he was unaware of the allegations. The district does have an "extensive" policy designed to provide an equitable and inclusive education for all students, he said in an email.

But Boyce said instituting the policy is taking too long.

"And they're not bringing the (right) partners on board."

## Quoted

**"It's phenomenal the amount of resistance we receive from (the board)."**

Advocate Michelle Boyce on negotiating with the school board



## Canned seasonal scenes

Steve Murphy, creative director at Lashbrook Marketing and Public Relations, is shown Tuesday next to the company's creative display of canned goods in Citi Plaza. Lashbrook took the top prize in the inaugural Build for Hunger in the City, which challenged businesses to create a seasonal scene using canned goods. All items used in the displays will be donated to the Salvation Army and the London Food Bank. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

## Jack's and Tabu. Liquor licence suspended at Richmond Row bar

Ontario's liquor watchdog has turned off the taps at a popular Richmond Row hang-out.

The liquor licence at Jack's bar and Tabu nightclub, both at 539 Richmond St., is suspended through 2 a.m. Dec. 10.

The suspension, which started Monday, stems from having a drunken person on the premises and serving liquor to someone who was intoxicated on March 17, 2009, said Lisa Murray, spokeswoman for the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

The case has been on hold for years because of scheduling issues prompted by the lawyer representing Jack's, Murray said.

Details about what led to the infraction were not available, but, Murray said, the patron involved "would have been exhibiting multiple and obvious signs of intoxication," including difficulty walking and a lack of hand-eye co-ordination.

"It's not slightly happy, or slightly talking loud, or slightly bubbly," she said, de-

**Fine**

**\$3,500**

Fine levied against Jack's and Tabu for a Liquor Licence Act infraction amounts to \$3,500.

Source: Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario

scribing what inspectors look for at establishments.

Officials at Jack's couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday.

But they seem to have found a work-around solution for keeping the bar hopping.

According to a Facebook page, Jack's plans to "take over" another student hot spot — Cowboys Ranch (60 Wharnclyffe Rd. N.) — Wednesday and Thursday.

Jack's mid-week drink specials will be offered with a free shuttle running between the bars, according to the page.

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario is "looking into" those plans, Murray said.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

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## Allow booze to be sold in corner stores, grocery aisles: Hudak

Ontario should allow beer, wine and spirits to be sold in corner stores and grocery aisles, Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said Tuesday.

He said he wouldn't cut taxes on alcohol, but he would consider selling part or all of the LCBO, which said it brought in \$1.6 billion to the province last year.

"So I think we need to be practical and thoughtful, whether that's a partial sale of LCBO stores, a full sale, allowing the employees in to bid

and run them as well, or franchises," he said.

"I think all these options are valid. I'd like to hear what Ontarians have to say about that, but I'm not going to build new stores, and I think it is time to have LCBO stores go into private hands."

The government should concentrate on core services like health care and education instead, Hudak said. But he rejected the notion that selling any part of the LCBO would deprive the province — which is

facing a \$14.4-billion deficit this year — of much-needed cash.

Ontario should follow other Canadian and U.S. jurisdictions such as Alberta, British Columbia, West Virginia and Iowa, which allow the private sector to sell alcohol, he said.

Hudak's suggestions for the LCBO are among the trial balloons the Tory leader is floating, which also include having the province get out of the gambling business. But they're not official party policy.

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# Not guilty! Soldier, wife share a long embrace

**Kandahar blast killed one.** Reservist cleared of manslaughter and breach of duty, but he's found guilty on negligence charge

A Canadian reservist has been found not guilty of manslaughter in an Afghan training accident that killed one soldier and injured four others more than two years ago.

A military jury at a court martial in Calgary also acquitted Maj. Darryl Watts of breach of duty.

But the five jurors, all senior officers in the Canadian Forces, convicted him of unlawfully causing bodily harm and negligent performance of military duty.

## Quoted

**"I feel very strongly in the man's innocence."**

Defence lawyer Balfour Der.

formance of military duty.

Watts, who stood at attention while the verdict was being read, shared a long embrace with his wife once the court had adjourned.

The courtroom at the Mewata Armoury in Calgary where the trial was held, was jammed with military personnel.

The maximum sentence for unlawfully causing bodily harm is imprisonment of up to 10 years. Negligent performance of duty can bring dismissal with disgrace from the Canadian Forces.

Cpl. Josh Baker died when a Claymore anti-personnel mine loaded with 700 steel balls peppered the platoon on a practice range near Kandahar city in February 2010.

The prosecution had argued that Watts, the platoon leader, turned a blind eye to safety standards and abdicated his duty as a leader when he handed over responsibility to his second-in-command, who was an expert on the weapon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Maj. Darryl Watts, pictured heading to court last month, has been found not guilty of manslaughter in a fatal Afghanistan training accident.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## UN aftermath. After big debate, Tories won't cut aid to the Palestinians

The Harper government pledged Tuesday night to preserve millions of dollars in Canadian aid to the Palestinians.

The issue was discussed during a 90-minute meeting in Ottawa involving Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, International Co-operation Minister Julian Fantino and four envoys called home for talks.

Baird had recalled them to discuss a response to the Palestinians' new United Nations status.

Baird's spokesperson said Tuesday night that Canada's five-year, \$300-million commitment would be maintained when it expires in March. The

## World outsiders

Canada strongly opposed the Palestinians' successful effort last week to win elevated status at the UN.

- **Almost alone.** Canada was one of only nine countries to vote against the Palestinians in the 193-nation General Assembly.

money goes toward strengthening the Palestinian justice system, economic development, health and education.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Health Canada acts

### Food testing lab's licence suspended

Health Canada has yanked the licence of a Toronto-area chemical testing laboratory.

The watchdog says it found falsified results in tests involving medications, natural food products and

food additives. It says in some cases, Chemi Pharmaceutical did not test drug ingredients.

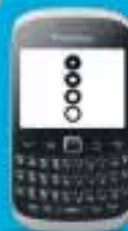
The agency said there is no evidence the health of Canadians has been compromised. Chemi Pharmaceutical did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

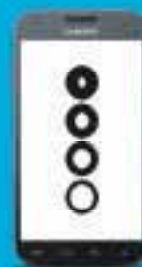
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# John McAfee seeks asylum in Guatemala

**On the lam.** Founder of anti-virus company fled Belize fearing death in police custody

Software company founder John McAfee has surfaced in public for the first time in weeks, saying on Tuesday that he plans to ask for asylum in Guatemala because he fears persecution in Belize.

McAfee spoke to The Associated Press in a restaurant near a high-end hotel where he is staying in Guatemala City after sneaking out of neighbouring Belize. Police in Belize have called him a person of interest in the November slaying of a fellow American expat.

McAfee says he is being persecuted by the Belizean government and has sensitive information about official corruption in the country where

## Real-world security

**"I need a safe place where I can actually speak out."**

Anti-virus company founder John McAfee

he lived in a compound guarded by aggressive dogs and armed guards.

"Now that I'm here, I can speak freely. I can speak openly," McAfee said.

He said he plans to petition the Guatemalan government to allow him to stay. He added that he fears he will be killed if he turns himself in for questioning in Belize.

"Belize does not have a good track record of providing safety when they ask to question you," he said. "I felt much more secure crossing the border into a country that had laws that were backed by the justice system."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



John McAfee, left, with his lawyer, Telesforo Guerra, answers questions at a restaurant in Guatemala City on Tuesday. MOISES CASTILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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## Royal Family. Boy or girl, Kate's baby will take the throne: U.K. government

The business of monarchy has always been stacked in favour of men. Not any more — or so the British government promises.

The first child of Prince William and his wife, Kate, will be born a king or a queen in waiting, under changes to succession rules designed to overturn centuries of tradition and give royal daughters the same rights as sons.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg pledged on Tuesday that the law on succession would be changed at the "earliest opportunity." He said "whether the baby is a boy or a girl, they will have an equal claim to the throne."

"Born to rule, be it a boy or a girl" proclaimed the Daily Mail, which noted that the baby had "already made royal and constitutional history" even before it is born.

Not so fast, caution others. A royal saga needs a touch of uncertainty, and experts point out that despite politicians' promises, the law giving males primacy in succession has not yet been changed — and the clock is ticking.



Britain's Prince William leaves a hospital in London on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We know that the wishes of politicians are written in water," said royal historian Robert Lacey. "Law only becomes law when the law is made — and the law has not been made."

Last year, the leaders of Britain and the 15 former colonies that have the queen as their head of state informally agreed to establish new rules giving female children equal status with males in the order of succession — something that will require legal changes in each country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Stay curious

#### NASA hopes to send Curiosity clone to Mars

NASA says it wants to launch another mega-rover to Mars modelled on the wildly popular Curiosity.

The space agency said Tuesday that the spacecraft will be built from Curiosity's spare parts. It would use the novel landing system that got the car-size rover to Mars in August.

The new mission, estimated to cost about \$1.5 billion, is scheduled for 2020. But the rover's exact purpose in the mission hasn't been hashed out yet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Magnetosphere

#### Scientists discover radioactive chirps from the cosmos

Twin spacecraft have captured the clearest sounds yet from Earth's radiation belts — and they mimic the chirping of birds.

NASA's Van Allen Probes have been exploring the radiation belts surrounding Earth for just three months. But already, they've collected measurements of high-energy particles and radio waves in unprecedented detail.

The chorus has been audible before, however; ham radio operators could sometimes hear it decades ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ottawa

## BoC maintains interest rates will need to rise

The Bank of Canada is holding fast to its view that the economy is poised for a comeback and that interest rates will need to rise at some point in the future.

The central bank offered no surprises in its Tuesday interest rate announcement, keeping the policy setting rate at one per cent

for the 18th consecutive announcement date.

Bank governor Mark Carney kept in place his future guidance that in all likelihood rates are more likely to rise in the future than fall, or even stay the same.

"Although underlying momentum appears slightly softer than previously anticipated, the pace of economic growth is expected to pick up through 2013," the bank said in its policy statement. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Washington

## Plans for avoiding fiscal cliff far apart

Both President Barack Obama and Republicans in Congress now have laid out some specifics of their vision for stepping back from the "fiscal cliff" budget crisis, but the plans are vastly different and leave politicians far from an agreement with a deadline less than a month away.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Calgary

## Canadian Pacific to cut 4,500 jobs


Canadian Pacific says it will eliminate some 4,500 jobs by 2016 and expects more than a third of those cuts to come by year-end as the struggling railroad works to bring down its operating costs. The Calgary-based company said reductions will be achieved through job cuts, attrition and reducing contractors.


**THE CANADIAN PRESS**


Market Minute

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 **TSX**  
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 **GOLD**  
\$1,695.80 US (-\$25.30)

## CFIB report. Five extra public sector sick days cost up to \$3.5B

A new report suggests public sector employees in Canada take nearly five more sick, disability and personal days per year than Canadians working in the private sector.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business says those extra days cost up to \$3.5 billion per year, noting some public sector workers can bank unused sick days, then take a lump-sum payment or use the days to retire early.

The CFIB says federal government employees take the most time off, averaging 15.2

Private sector figures

**6.7**

Employees in businesses with fewer than 20 employees averaged 6.7 days off, while those in firms with more than 500 employees took 9.1 days, which is still lower than the public sector average.

sick, disability and personal days per year compared to 12.9 days in the overall public sector and 8.2 days in the overall private sector.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



## PM warns editors to take action on press regulator

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron meets children at a primary school in London on Tuesday. Earlier, Cameron warned newspaper editors they must act quickly to set up an independent press regulator in the wake of a media ethics scandal. **NEIL HALL/PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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# OH, CHRISTMAS TREE, WHY DO YOU CAUSE SUCH A DEBATE?



**JUST SAYIN'**  
Paul Sullivan  
metronews.ca

There's an important dialogue going on in households around the world right about now.

And it goes like this:

He: So, where do you think the tree should go this year?

She: You know, Hon, I really think we should bite the bullet and buy an artificial tree this year. Those real trees are so messy. They drop all their needles and are full of bugs. Squirrels, too, maybe.

He: The trouble with artificial trees is that they look as if they were put together on craft day at kindergarten using toilet brushes and spray paint.

She: That's not true! The new ones are pretty nice and they come with lights. All you have to do is take them out of the box, plug them in and voila: instant Christmas.

He: I try to stay away from anything with the word 'instant' in it: Instant coffee ... instant mashed potatoes.

She: But real trees are so expensive. To get one that looks any good, you have to spend at least \$50.

He: The only artificial ones that look any good at all cost seven or eight hundred bucks. At that

## The pine needle in my side

"The only artificial ones that look any good at all cost seven or eight hundred bucks. At that price, it will take an eternity of *instant* Christmases to amortize the cost."

price, it will take an eternity of *instant* Christmases to amortize the cost.

Sound of quaint landline ringing.

Offspring: Hi Daddy! What's up?

He: Hi. Your mother is lobbying for an artificial tree again this year.

Offspring: Nooooo! It wouldn't be Christmas. The Geneva Convention specifically calls for a real tree to be sacrificed as a solstice offering. Have you called the Xmas police?

He: Not yet. She does make a certain amount of sense about the mess, which I end up cleaning up every year. And it's harder now because I have to toss the old tree over the balcony.

Offspring: Don't be silly, Daddy. You can get one of those noble firs. They don't lose their needles until Easter and only cost \$100 or so.

He: Is that all?

Offspring: And you get to save Christmas. I know I can count on you, Daddy. Gotta run! Ciao!

She: Was that our daughter?

He: Yes. She accused you of trying to ruin Christmas.

She: Same old, same old. By the way, I've been

thinking: We could get one of those Charlie Brown trees from

Ikea. I think they come free with a dozen meatballs.

He: I believe that's Lillie Karl in Sweden. And his dog is called Snobben. At least there

would be no place for the bugs to hide.

She: You can't help showing off, can you?

He: So where do you think the tree should go this year?



# Road bump in the baby lodge



CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

## Royal pregnancy

### Police not fooled by princely mask

A man wearing a Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, mask is escorted away by a policeman at the King Edward VII hospital in London, England. Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, remains in hospital after Monday's announcement of her pregnancy and the fact she is suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum or acute morning sickness. **METRO**

## #royalbaby

### Messages from the womb, under 140 characters

This man isn't the only royal impostor caught up in baby-mania. Spoof Twitter accounts of the unborn child are getting attention.

"CURRENT STATUS: DARK IN HERE, WILL UPDATE," tweeted @RoyalFoetus, which has 6,800+ followers. A rival, @Royal-Fetus (10,000+ followers), said: "I may not have bones yet, but I'm already more important than everyone reading this." **METRO**

## What are the odds?

# 8-1

Bettors in Britain have a range of possible wagers from betting agencies William Hill, Ladbrokes and Paddy Power. Paddy Power will give you 8-1 odds for betting on twins; 100-1 for triplets; and for quadruplets or more you'll get 500-1 odds.

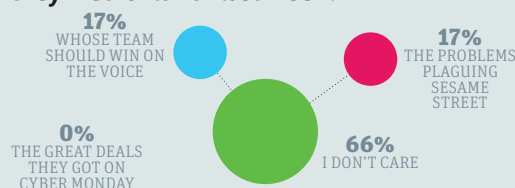
## Online

For the latest go to metronews.ca.



Register at [metropolitanpanel.ca](http://metropolitanpanel.ca) and take the quick poll

What do you think Barack Obama and rival Mitt Romney really talked about when they met for lunch last week?



## Twitter

### @eShepperd:

Hey, remember when the Internet had a gender gap?

### @livelifeinneon:

If I hear another chipmunk song I'm going to lose my mind.

### @kimm Edwards:

Sitting, waiting, wishing. I hope this baby is coming soon so I had better obsessively clean the kitchen first. #LetsGetThisShoOnTheRoad

### @hankjanssens:

Can I go back to sleep yet? #tired #study #fanshawe

### @danielax001:

It seems like 11:00 am it's too damn late to come to the library #packed #westernu -\_-

### @promojosh:

"My mighty heart is breaking. I'll be at the bar."



# On top of the cheesy charts

Barry Manilow has become just the fifth artist to score 50 hits on Billboard's Adult Contemporary chart. The sentimental performer entered the rarified mix thanks to a cushy rendition of Santa Claus Is Coming to Town off his new Christmas album. As any Fanilow worth their One Night Live! One Last Time! concert tee could tell you, it's been four decades since the romantic balladeer first cracked the easy listening chart in November of 1974 with Mandy (the first of 13 of Manilow's ditties that would soar to No. 1 on the chart). We cosy up with the AC music titans voted most easy on the ears.

MIKE DOJC  
scene@metronews.ca



**Johnny Mathis**

**AC chart  
appearances: 49**

While just one chart appearance shy of an official 50 entries club membership, this velvet voiced crooner pioneered the greatest hits album format. 1958's Johnny's Greatest Hits was the first time a record was marketed with the popular moniker and would also earn Mathis a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for its chart longevity. The LP managed to stay in Billboard's top 100 albums listing for a whopping 490 consecutive weeks. Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon would eventually eclipse it. Easy Listening Cred: Chances Are, It's Not for Me to Say, Too Much Too Little Too Late.



**Elvis Presley**

**AC chart  
appearances: 53**

You can thank the king, and thank him very much for assuring that the rhythm and blues, rock and roll and gospel charts got all shook up during his reign from the 1950s through the '70s until his untimely passing. While his hip-swiveling swagger and pelvic predilections on stage enamoured the youth of his day, Elvis was a genre-straddling juggernaut and choice selections culled from his softer more sensitive material still work wonderfully as retro wedding songs or make-out session mood setters. Easy Listening Cred: Can't Help Falling in Love, Suspicious Minds, It's Now or Never.



**Neil Diamond**

**AC chart  
appearances: 58**

While millennials know this jazzy vocalist as the guy who sings Sweet Caroline, Diamond has written a treasure trove of soft rock gems. He's sold over 125 million records during his five decades on the scene. Now in his early 70s, the veteran showman has entered the lifetime achievement phase of his career. In just the past couple of years, he became a Kennedy Center Honoree, got his name etched on the Hollywood's Walk of Fame and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Easy Listening Cred: America, Heartlight, Forever in Blue Jeans.



**Elton John**

**AC chart  
appearances: 68**

In high school, this bespectacled pop piano prodigy should have been voted "most likely to be heard in an animated movie." With lyricist Bernie Taupin in tow, the rocket man launched one hit after the other into radio orbit since Your Song off his sophomore album cracked the top 10 in 1970. While the Bennie and the Jets singer has made numerous contributions to the classic rock canon, many of his ivory tickling confections crossover into elevator friendly territory. Easy Listening Cred: Candle in the Wind, Can you Feel the Love Tonight, Don't Let the Sun Go Down On Me.



**Barbra Streisand**

**AC chart  
appearances: 64**

Trends, smrends, Babs eschewed 'em all, including rhinoplasty, fearing a nose job would ruin her voice. Never following suit with the hipsters of her heyday, Streisand was adult contemporary long before the term was coined. She got her start on Broadway at 19, garnering a Tony nomination for her portrayal of Miss Marmelstein in the Great Depression set musical I Can Get It For You Wholesale. This holiday season, catch Streisand opposite Seth Rogen in the mother-son buddy flick, The Guilt Trip. Easy Listening Cred: People, The Way We Were, You Don't Bring Me Flowers (duet with Neil Diamond).

2 SCENE



John Travolta

## Travolta's alleged lover sues star

A man who told the National Enquirer that he had a "steamy affair" with John Travolta while working as his pilot from 1981 to 1987 is now suing the actor, insisting he never signed a confidentiality agreement that would bar him from talking to the media about his time with the actor, according to TMZ.

The man, Doug Gotterba, claims Travolta's

lawyer, Marty Singer, threatened a lawsuit after the story was published. Singer maintains that Gotterba's termination agreement included a confidentiality clause and that the former employee is just out for attention.

"Mr. Gotterba obviously filed this lawsuit to get his 15 minutes of fame," Singer says. "We plan to get this meritless case promptly dismissed."

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



## Random sources state the obvious about Will and Kate



THE  
WORD  
Dorothy Robinson  
scene@metronews.ca

The news of Will and Kate's impending arrival has the tabloids in a tizzy — and scrambling for anyone, anyone at all, to be quoted about it.

I've compiled a sampling of the best of these random, mostly anonymous sources, all of whom state how Kate and Will will be good parents (as if anyone is going to say that she's going to become a baby-smacking alcoholic and he's planning on raising the baby as a racist).

The best of the bunch, with an added bonus of Snooki (say what?) commentary:

"Kate will be a firm but fair mother. Kate will let her children have fun and freedom, but she will also make sure they do what is best for them." — A "pal" of the Duchess of Cambridge, per Us Weekly.

"I can see William wanting to take time off in the modern paternity-leave style, so that he bonds with his child." — A "family friend" to dailymail.co.uk

"(Kate and Will) both try to be as normal as possible in their private lives. ... Everyone's always said what great parents they'll be, since they are such a caring couple and very relaxed. They will lavish love on their children." — Jessica Hay, a "childhood acquaintance" of Kate's, to Australian tabloid New Idea

"I'm sure she will be an amazing mom." — Snooki to the New York Daily News



Lindsay Lohan

## IRS seized Lohan's bank accounts

More trouble for Lindsay Lohan. The IRS has reportedly seized the Liz and Dick star's bank accounts because of her outstanding debt, according to TMZ. Lohan previously had liens filed against her for unpaid taxes from 2009 and 2010 total more than \$233,000, but the govern-

ment apparently got tired of waiting for her to make good on the debt.

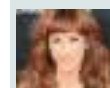
She is said to also owe money for 2011. Sources tell the website that Lohan is in panic mode and is scrambling for ways to make enough money to get out of debt pronto.

### Twitter



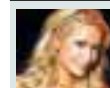
@ABFoundation

I'm gonna write a book. A novel. It's called A PRIVATE MISUNDERSTANDING. Can you guess what it's about? Can you guess what happens?



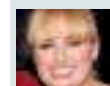
@kathygriffin

I bet Justin Bieber can blow a mean whistle



@ParisHilton

Just landed in Dubai. Next stop New York City.



@RebelWilson

I am going to go on a new cleanse - my weekend cleanse of cutting everything out of my diet except for chocolate DID NOT WORK!

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Since 1985, the United Nations has recognized the contributions of volunteers around the world on Dec. 5, International Volunteer Day. Metro talks to Cuso International and Free The Children, international development organizations that send volunteers overseas to share their expertise with partners in other nations. Here, they offer five things to consider before taking the leap into overseas volunteering.

METRO NEWS  
life@metronews.ca



Visual artist Stephanie Stoker (centre) works with young adults in Peru. CUSO INTERNATIONAL

### Choose your organization carefully

Some organizations require you to pay your own way, and often include a fee; volunteering may be a fundraising mechanism for a development project. For others, volunteering is fundamental to their programs, and those serving take on professional roles in longer-term development.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL

# 5 things every volunteer should know

### A volunteer trip is just the beginning

Volunteer travel is a life-changing experience for both the traveller and the developing communities in which they work. Further ignite the global change maker in you by taking your experience one step further when you return home. Spread the message of your transformative experience to others, helping to spark the change within them. CRAIG KIELBURGER, FOUNDER, FREE THE CHILDREN



For young people, volunteering means being engaged, empowered and part of a team.

FREE THE CHILDREN



Bairu Sium, left, a Toronto high school teacher, assists his colleagues in education in Tanzania. SCOTT PORTINGALE/CUSO INTERNATIONAL

### Know why you're going

Volunteers want to help and make a difference, as the cliché goes, but most know this isn't a purely selfless act. You will learn new skills, broaden your horizons and come to better understand yourself and the world. And that's all OK. Reflect on your motivations. You want to help reduce global poverty or protect the natural world, but what else? Have you always wanted to travel, but not as a tourist? Work with kids? When you understand your motivations, you'll be in a better position to choose the option that is right for you.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL

### Don't assume you know it all

Decades of successful and not-so-successful development assistance shows that projects parachuted in from above, without consultation or roots in local communities, usually do not have long-term benefits. You will want to help build the social infrastructure that is so critical to any nation's future.

SEAN KELLY, CUSO INTERNATIONAL



Augustina Aporte, who lives in Bolivia, works with the Chiquitania Forest Conservation Foundation on sustainability projects. MIGUEL HORTIGUELA/CUSO INTERNATIONAL

### Work alongside the local community

Often times, travellers volunteer in isolation from the local community in which they are working in. Make sure to travel with organizations that have strong partnerships with local communities and governments. This enables you to ensure you are committing to a project that promotes long term and sustainable change.

CRAIG KIELBURGER, FOUNDER, FREE THE CHILDREN



School-building with local children creates a lasting bond for volunteers.

FREE THE CHILDREN

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Women's North Face 3 in 1 Boundary Parka.  
Was \$299.95, **Now \$159.95**

3 FREE

# Impress your guests' taste buds with sophisticated Parmesan Custard Cup

## Parmesan Custard

1. In food processor, combine light cream cheese, whipping cream and eggs. Pulse until smooth, about 2 minutes.

2. Add Parmesan, salt and pepper; continue to pulse until smooth, about 1 minute. Divide Parmesan mix into each of the eight greased glass ramekins (approx. 1/4 cup or 50 ml in each)

## Spinach Layer

1. Put spinach over strainer in the sink and gently press to remove water.

2. In skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat, add garlic; cook, stirring until aromatic, about 1 min. Stir in spinach, green onions, salt and pepper. Cook to combine flavours, 4 mins. Remove from heat and spoon a generous 1/4 cup (50 ml) spinach mix on top of Parmesan custard, pressing gently.

## Roasted Red Pepper and Salad Greens

1. In bowl, stir red pepper slices and garlic. Cover tops of spinach with a layer of

## Parmesan Custard Cup



This recipe makes 8 custard cups. EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

roasted red pepper. The peppers should cover the spinach. Smooth tops.

2. Place custard cups on large rimmed baking sheet and bake in 375 F (190 C) oven until set,

about 30 mins. Let cool slightly.

3. Meanwhile, in bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, Dijon, salt and pepper. Toss with mixed greens.

4. Run thin knife around edges of glass ramekins. Invert onto salad plates and top each with small amount of mixed greens and serve. Or top each cup with a handful of mixed greens and serve. EGG FARMERS OF ONTARIO

## Ingredients

### Parmesan Custard

- 1 pkg (250g/8oz) light cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) whipping cream
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper

### Spinach Layer

- 2 pkgs each (300g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) vegetable oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt and freshly ground pepper

### Roasted Red Pepper Layer

- 1 jar (340 ml) roasted red peppers, drained and thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp (10 ml) Dijon mustard
- salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups (750 ml) mixed salad greens

## Drink of the Week

### Apple Cider Punch

Apple cider is one of those drinks that is automatically associated with winter and the holiday season. This version gets an added touch with grapefruit juice.

- 2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 2.5 oz apple cider
- 1 oz grapefruit juice
- 1 egg white
- 1 oz corn syrup
- 1 dash Angostura bitters

Combine all ingredients into a shaker, dry shake. Add ice and shake again. Double strain into glass. Garnish with apple slice.

RECIPE AND PHOTO COURTESY OF BOMBAY SAPPHIRE



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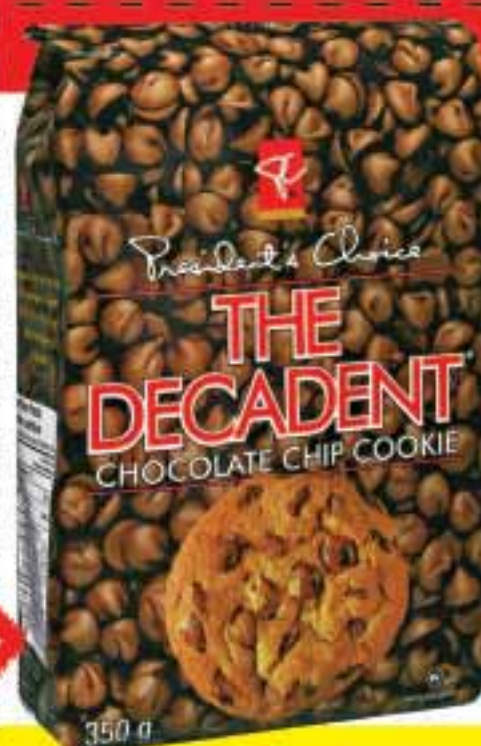
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**Student voice**

## Signing yourself up for success

Shaheerah Kayani  
Student  
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)  
University of Guelph-Humber  
TalentEgg.ca

Through my high school business club, I participated in BizAcademy; a one-week apprenticeship program/ team-based competition sponsored by Salesforce.com, an innovative cloud-computing organization. Here, I collaborated with employees and mentors to create mock business plans and client presentations. The following year, being a BizAcademy participant made me eligible for a Salesforce.com internship, which I applied for and got. The year after that, I received a \$2,500 scholarship courtesy of Salesforce.com.

### Where I am now

Today, I am employed part-time on-campus as an office assistant for the Student Life Department, and as a business peer tutor. I am also part of the school's advertising club (GHAMA) and investment council (GHIC). I am actively searching and ap-

plying for student jobs in the finance/banking industry.

### My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

Based on my past experiences, my advice is to connect with each other, playing the role of an intermediary to help employ bright and talented students and to find a perfect fit between students and employers.

### My advice for students and recent grads

My advice for fellow students and recent grads is to join clubs, associations, volunteer and network with professors and university staff. Simple activities such as club involvement, networking, attending conferences and summer volunteerism can lead to bigger and better opportunities in the future. And finally, it can truly help if you have an online presence — whether it is LinkedIn, a professional blog or another creative online community, such as Behance.

**TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE.**



Shaheerah Kayani PROVIDED

# Optimize your first office experience

## Placement pointers.

A co-op can easily turn into a full-time career, so work it like you're already on board

VALERIE AGUIAR  
TalentEgg.ca

Going out on a co-op work term for the first time can be daunting. Aside from showing up to work, there's a lot you should do to make a good impression.

Here are seven tips to help you make the most of your experience:

### Don't wait until the first day

If you've been given your managers' contact information, get in touch with them. Let her know that you are excited to start and find out if there is anything they can suggest for you to do before you arrive. This gives them a good impression of you before they've even met you.

### On your first day, come prepared

Bring in a copy of your job description as well as a notebook. You'll be taking in a lot of new information, so it helps if you write it down. It's also important that you rest up the night before. Even though your job might not be grueling, being in a new environment is, so help your body out by getting some sleep.

### Ask questions

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. People know you are new, and in most cases, they'll be more than happy to help. Don't be intimidated if everyone seems busy. They are, but they'll still find a way to help you — if you ask.



Don't flood your supervisor's inbox with questions when you could have easily asked a co-worker instead. ISTOCK

### Observe

Whenever possible, try to watch and see how your

manager and co-workers interact (not in a creepy way, of course!). Maybe people at

your company are very casual in conversation. How do people dress? How long do people typically go for lunch? Use what you see to help you fit in.

### Ask for work

Each manager is unique. Some might delegate tasks to you, others might only give you work if you ask for it. Don't be afraid to use the phrase, "Would you like me to do anything in particular today?" It always helps to be proactive at work. Plus, you might learn a thing or two.

When in doubt, check it out. If the work you are given is difficult and you aren't sure whether you did it correctly, ask someone to look over your work.

Your manager would definitely prefer this instead of finding a ton of mistakes later. You'll find that as time goes on, you'll feel more confident in your work.

**TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.**

### Speak out

@TalentEgg: #Coop students and grads: do you think co-op placements make a big difference in hatching a career? #QuestionOfTheDay

- @SabaSabati: Absolutely! U graduate w/ min 9 months experience. Relative to those with 0, it's a huge advantage! + networking opp = priceless
- @ssimpson3: It's a great way to add some experience to your resume, network within the industry, and gain some real world skills
- @danchukal: absolutely! Coop gets ur foot in the



door and without that exp, you'll be many steps behind those who have.  
#QuestionOfTheDay

- @sonjaferne: My worry as parent is companies cutting back; more students to place & fewer placements these days. So...is it worth it?
- @ScouseNerd: absolutely! If my previous program had anything like that I think my life would be much different today
- @Mathoraa: Definitely! It not only gives you experience, but also a 'feel' on what the job is like

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# Quick cures for the co-op kibosh

## Best of the desk.

Make it through those first few days sans any sensational slip-ups

ISHANI  
NATH  
TalentEgg.ca

Landing a co-op position is great for getting hands-on experience in your field of choice, putting what you've learned in the classroom to practical use in the workplace. However, there are a few things that you should just simply not do.

To make sure you work it out in style, here are our guidelines for what not to do at your co-op position.

### Don't slack because it's not a 'real job'

While co-op placements may not be technically a 'real job,' the work and opportunity that they present are no lie.

Showing up on time and working hard will not only



Don't rule out the possibility of shadowing people in other departments if you feel you aren't learning. ISTOCK

make your experience better, it could help turn that placement into a 'real job' in the future.

### Don't go in blank

Getting a co-op placement can be challenging, but once you get one, don't just sit back and wait for the ride to begin. Learn about the company you're working for, the different departments that

you'll be exposed to and figure out what it is that you want to get out of the experience.

Communicate your goals to your boss and work with them to make sure you make the most of your co-op.

### Don't fly under the radar

When going into a new work environment, it can be tempting to fade into the background. However, since co-ops are short-term placements, you need to utilize your time in the office to leave a positive impression.

Network within the office and get to know your colleagues and your boss.

Once you leave the office, these people can be great industry contacts for future jobs openings or mentorship so build relationships. You want to be on their radar, not flying under it.

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Hockey

## Americans name invitees for junior selection camp

Returning players John Gibson, Jacob Trouba and J.T. Miller as well as some top NHL prospects were among 27 players invited Tuesday to the U.S. national junior team preliminary training camp. Alex Galchenyuk of the Sarnia Sting, drafted third overall by the Montreal Canadiens in June, as well as Toronto Maple Leafs first-rounder Tyler Biggs and the Ottawa Senators' 21st overall selection Stefan Noesen were also invited.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

## Victorino Boston bound: Source

Free-agent outfielder Shane Victorino and the Red Sox agreed Tuesday to a \$39-million, three-year contract, Boston's second big addition during the winter meetings.

Victorino's deal is subject to a physical, as is the \$39-million, three-year contract the Red Sox agreed to Monday with Mike Napoli.

Victorino hit a combined .255 with 11 home runs and 55 RBIs last season for Philadelphia and the Los Angeles Dodgers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

## Police spoke with Belcher before murder-suicide

Kansas City Chiefs line-backer Jovan Belcher told officers who found him sleeping in his car outside an apartment complex hours before he committed a murder-suicide that he was there to visit a woman he described as his "girlfriend," but that she wasn't home.

The apartment is about 15 kilometres from the Kansas City home Belcher shared with Kasandra Perkins, the mother of their three-month-old daughter, Zoey. Belcher shot Perkins at their home Saturday morning before driving to Arrowhead Stadium, where he committed suicide in the practice facility's parking lot, police said.

Police responded to a report about 2:50 a.m. Saturday of a man sleeping in his car outside an apartment building, police said Tuesday. When police approached the car, Belcher got out of the vehicle and was co-operative, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Knights and Mustangs thriving under goalie guru

**Hockey.** Net gains playing big part in ongoing winning streaks of both clubs



JOHN MATISZ  
john.matisz@metronews.ca

There's one distinct crossover between the London Knights and the Western Mustangs hockey clubs this year. His name is Bill Dark.

The goalie coach's clients have collectively reeled off 26 consecutive victories. The Knights and Mustangs are on 15-game and 11-game benders, respectively.

London will try to extend its winning streak with three games this week: Brampton on Thursday, Niagara on Friday, and Mississauga on Sunday. Western, however, has begun a month-long lull as school breaks for the holidays.

"It's all in the hands of the Knights now," joked Dark. 52.

This successful two-team run is not solely the result of great goaltending, of course, seeing as both squads have shown they can fill the net on a consistent basis.

Yet, there's no two ways about it: Dark has impacted both winning streaks.

Take the Knights' 5-3 come-from-behind victory over the Barrie Colts last Friday as an example. Twenty-year-old netminder Kevin Bailie was a changed man when he returned to London's crease for the second period; the pair of goals he surrendered on four shots in the opening frame be-



London Knights goalie coach Bill Dark, right, chats with ex-Knight Michael Houser during a break at a team practice last season. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

came a thing of the past.

"Mentally, that was a very strong performance from Bails," Dark said. "There's a lot of goalies who, once they give up two goals, they seem to lose focus."

Bailie's rebound control has gradually improved since coming over from the Oshawa Generals in a trade this summer. It's obviously helped as the Belleville native ranks in the top three in most OHL goaltending categories after 21 games.

"When we picked him up, we knew we were getting a goalie with experience that we felt had underachieved in

his time in the league," Dark added.

Fellow backstopper Jake Patterson has developed into a real gamer for the Knights, too, kicking his rookie campaign — a writeoff after suffering mononucleosis — to the curb. It's too early to predict what the 18-year-old's true potential is, but NHL Central Scouting has taken interest in Patterson, ranking him fifth amongst OHL goalies for the 2013 NHL draft.

As for Dark, he's been with the Mustangs program for more than a decade. The Knights hired him after he spent three seasons as goalie coach for the Windsor Spitfires.



Bill Dark ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

### Dark's disciples

#### Goalies under Bill Dark's watch:

- Kevin Bailie, London: 21 games played, 13 wins, 2.20 goals-against average, 2 shutouts, .932 save percentage (named CHL goaltender of the week on Tuesday)
- Jake Patterson, London: 12 GP, 10 wins, 2.12 GAA, 2 SO, .926 SV%
- Josh Unice, Western: 13 GP, 11 wins, 2.67 GAA, 1 SO, .915 SV%
- John Cullen, Western: 3 GP, 2 wins, 3.65 GAA, 0 SO, .891 SV%

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4 SPORTS

# The 2013 Jetta Hybrid



## Engine

The powertrain consists of a unique 1.4-litre turbo-charged four-cylinder engine worth 150 horsepower and 184 pound-feet of torque. It's paired with a water-cooled electric motor rated at 27 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque. Electricity comes from a lithium-ion battery pack located behind the rear seat.



A 1.4 litre, turbo-charged engine

## 2013 Jetta Hybrid

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 1.4-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (150) with 27-hp electric motor (170, net)
- **Transmission.** Seven-speed dual-clutch automated manual
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$29,400

## Design

Physical modifications aimed at maximizing the Hybrid's fuel economy include a cold-air intake for the engine plus a special front air dam, side skirts and rear spoiler for the body. The underbody has been fitted with extra panels designed to further reduce air resistance and turbulence.

## Fuel economy

The (Direct Shift Gearbox) or DSG also features a sport mode that holds each gear for a longer duration when accelerating, but at the expense of fuel economy that in "normal" mode is estimated at 4.6 l/100 km city and 4.0 highway. That beats the Jetta TDI's 6.7/4.6 highway figures and rivals the slower Civic Hybrid's.

**Review.** VW's hybrid shift is an economically sound one

MALCOLM GUNN  
Wheelbase Media

In a diesel-versus-hybrid comparison that usually pits Volkswagen against the rest of the world, did anyone really see this one coming? Volkswagen

building a hybrid? One that beats its own diesel model in fuel economy and comes close in price? Talk about a shift. Talk about the 2013 Jetta Hybrid.

The Jetta's hybrid system generates 170 net horsepower and 184 pound-feet of torque.

That's less than a Toyota Camry Hybrid or Ford Fusion Hybrid, but keep in mind that the Jetta is closer in size to the Honda Civic and its estimated 8.6-second

zero-to-60-m.p.h (96 km/h) time trumps the Civic Hybrid by 1.5 seconds and the Jetta TDI by half a second.

Assisting the Jetta Hybrid in the performance department is a seven-speed automated manual transmission (Direct Shift Gearbox, or DSG) that features rapid-fire gear changes.

It can be left in automatic mode or the driver can go manually.

On the road, the Jetta's hybrid unit can briefly operate

on electric power for up to two kilometres and at speeds up to 60 km/h in standard mode, or 70 km/h in E-Mode. However, anything more than a gentle nudge of the pedal will tell the gas engine to join in.

The interior is standard Jetta fare, with the exception of a power meter that replaces the tachometer and displays when the Hybrid is in gas or electric mode.

Each model can come

equipped with a touch-screen audio system, an energy flow display, a navigation system, a Fender-brand audio package and a rearview camera, amongst other things. The Hybrid may not displace the cheaper Jetta TDI turbo-diesel as the fuel-saver's VW of choice, but it makes a sportier alternative to mainstream hybrids with their one-dimensional approach to cutting fuel consumption.

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## By comparison



**1** Toyota Prius  
Base price: \$27,500



**2** Honda Civic Hybrid  
Base price: \$26,500



## Horoscopes

### Aries

**March 21 - April 20**  
Look ahead and make plans — the bigger the better. The planets are encouraging you to try out new ways of doing things and before the current week is over, you will have had a revelation of some kind.

### Taurus

**April 21 - May 21**  
What happens over the next 24 hours will convince you there can be no more looking back. It is the future that matters and the future begins now. Change your life by changing the way you think about it.

### Gemini

**May 22 - June 21**  
Why do you believe you are surrounded by enemies? Whatever the reason, it must not be allowed to stop you from taking risks. Over the next few days, if you bet against the odds, you might just win big.

### Cancer

**June 22 - July 23**  
What is the one thing you are really good at? Everyone has a talent of some sort and if you identify yours and do something with it, you will soon enjoy amazing success. Do what comes naturally and do it brilliantly.

### Leo

**July 24 - Aug. 23**  
Be brave and take that big gamble you have been thinking of. There are, of course, no guarantees but life is supposed to be fun and one of the most fun things you can do is to reach beyond your usual limits.

### Virgo

**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**  
A long-term problem will work itself out to your complete satisfaction today and to say you will be surprised is a big understatement. Don't think about it too much, just make the most of it.

### Libra

**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**  
It seems you have been working at cross purposes with a friend, but the good news is you can easily set things straight. Identify what each of you is trying to accomplish then resolve to help one another.

### Scorpio

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**  
Someone new will come into your life today and it could be the start of a great friendship. You may be as different as chalk is from cheese but for some reason you will click. It could be you are soul mates.

### Sagittarius

**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**  
Old-fashioned ideas and habitual routines tend to bore you and that's good because success will come through trying new things. Don't just move with the times, move ahead of the times. Shake up the status quo.

### Capricorn

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**  
Whatever it is you get up to next it is sure to change the way other people look at you, and maybe even the way you look at yourself. Strive to be different, not just today but every day from now on.

### Aquarius

**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**  
You will have plenty to say for yourself today but there is a danger you will say too much and turn others against you. That may not worry you much now but it will later on when you need their assistance.

### Pisces

**Feb. 20 - March 20**  
Today's events will surprise you, especially if you are the kind of Pisces who thinks in terms of black and white or good and bad. Try not to be so conservative in your opinions. Strive to see the bigger picture.  
**SALLY BROMPTON**

## Crossword

### Across

- Auger
- Skin
- Star —: Deep Space Nine
- Stage of sleep (abbr.)
- Vicinity
- Peacekeeping grp.
- Battery sz.
- Common suffix
- "Smoking or —?"
- Problem solving technique
- Rose holder
- Urn
- Part of UCLA
- Catty
- de Janeiro
- Runaway singer Shannon
- Vocalized pauses
- Yield
- Jay-Z's genre
- Understand
- Flee from the law
- Balsam and Evergreen
- Charlottetown province (abbr.)
- Use the phone
- Genuinely real
- GPS heading (abbr.)
- NHL legend Bobby
- First two vowels in a sequence
- Orange peel
- Only one time
- Rap sheet abbreviation
- Director Preminger
- Meadows
- Berlin article

### Down

- Spirited horse
- "What Not to —"
- Letters between K and N
- Growing —
- Greeted the day
- Monthly expense



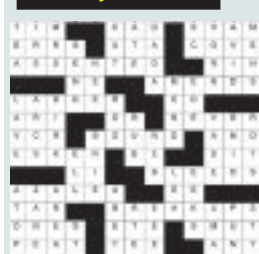
BY BETTY MARTIN

- Apiece (abbr.)
- Actress who starred in Father Dowling Mysteries (init.)
- Indian Queen
- British prep school.
- "King —"
- Cease
- Author Fleming
- Ken or Lena
- Tooth anchor
- Form of address

- "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
- Sooner than, poetically
- Zodiac symbol
- Boring tool
- Corn unit
- CD's predecessor
- Jane Lynch drama
- Precipitation
- Tampa state
- Chemistry measure (abbr.)

- Time frame
- Farm units
- Flying (prefix)
- Condo, e.g.
- Camping necessity
- Pitch
- Trout habitat
- Part of a decade
- "— the Right Thing"
- Chemical suffix
- Billboard use

## Yesterday's Crossword



## What's online

See today's answers  
metronews.ca/  
answers.



## Sudoku

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

## Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	3	4	2	8	5	1
1	4	2	8	7	5	9	3	6
3	5	8	9	6	1	4	2	7
5	3	1	2	8	4	7	6	9
8	9	7	5	1	6	2	4	3
2	6	4	7	9	3	1	8	5
7	8	6	4	5	9	3	1	2
9	2	5	1	3	8	6	7	4
4	1	3	6	2	7	5	9	8

8			3		9			
9	3						6	5
	7			2		8		
	5		6	7				1
		7				6		
6				5	4		2	
		9		8				1
7	6						8	4
			1		3			6



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